

Historic Iris Preservation Society

Board Minutes of January 19, 2017

I. The teleconference meeting was called to order by President Cathy Egerer at 9 Pm EST/8 PM CST. Nancy McDonald was designated as timekeeper.

II. Roll call by Secretary Linda Bell. Present: President Cathy Egerer, Vice President Dave Prichard, Secretary Linda Bell, Dorothy Stiefel, Shaub Dunkley, Gary White, Judy Schneider, Delane Langton, Nancy McDonald, Charlie Carver, Lori Lensch, Susan Flow, Laetitia Munro, Judy Eckhoff, and Doug Paschall. Not Present: Treasurer Judy Keisling, Paul Gossett, Denise Stewart (resigned N'West director), Kate Brewitt, and Linda Baumgartner.

III. There were no additions or changes to the minutes.

IV. The previous meeting's minutes were approved and posted

V. There was no treasurer's report due to the illness of Treasurer Judy Keisling. The financial report will be posted at a later date.

VI. President Cathy Egerer reported that Denise Stewart has resigned due to increased family responsibilities. Cathy accepted the resignation with regret and thanks to Denise for her time serving HIPS. A job description of the duties of the Northwest Regional Director is being prepared prior to filling the position.

Regarding the archives: Gesine Lohr has not returned the final materials of the archives, and we have been requesting them for 18 months. HIPS is making an inventory of the materials that have been received so far. President Egerer said she will contact Gesine and request the rest of the materials and receipts for the shipping funds that were advanced to her.

President Egerer has requested that the remaining annual reports be submitted as soon as possible.

VII. Old Business

A. Committee/Chair updates

1. Member Databank update was presented by Lori Lensch-Marcotte. She has received several reports from new members (28) and has new inventories ranging from 2 irises to 35 pages of irises. The reports from 2013-2014 need to be updated. She is concerned that the lists should be current with recent data, however this is a difficult task, and an effective system needs to be determined. She suggests that original lists can be sent out with a request to be verified and then be re-submitted with corrections. 2014-15 lists should be easy to update. Board members should remember to send their personal lists to the databank.

2. Membership Chair Judy Eckhoff reported that 79 deceased or expired members have been dropped. Currently HIPS has 759 members, of whom 175 are new; 108 memberships expired in August, 2016 and will be dropped if not renewed.

3. Webmaster Laetitia Munro suggested that all board members have a [historicism.org](mailto:historicism@historicism.org) email address. She explained there is unlimited forwarding capacity, however, AOL emails can't be forwarded. The email would stay with the Board position; Laetitia can easily make changes if a board member leaves, but she can only set up the account if requested to do so. Board members can select a name for their account and Laetitia will set it up. This also

protects against spam, as the website host can filter emails. Several features have been added to the website, including expanding the gallery photos. Laetitia has a volunteer assistant, Jack Finney, who wants to work on a NOIDS gallery. The website is a good place to put special members' notices. Laetitia receives around 100 emails a year addressed to the webmaster with questions and offers to donate articles.

4. PR Chair Cathy Egerer reported that she is in the process of verifying emails and checking them against the membership list. They are being separated into regions and a color-coded map is being placed on the website. As soon as this is completed, the email newsletter will be sent out.

5. Commercial Sources Chair Dave Prichard led a discussion of membership requirements. Some Board members feel that non-members should not be given a free listing or free ads; however, many of these vendors are the only source of unusual specimens and HIPS would not want to discourage them from providing a source for our members to acquire these irises. There is a possibility that HIPS could lose contact with these small gardens. Dave said he needs to determine which commercial gardens are HIPS members, perhaps by asking the vendors directly as to what name they are using, which can be difficult as some gardens are closed during the winter season.

A proposal needs to be formulated regarding whether to continue non-members on the vendor list, perhaps a special designation could be made for HIPS member commercial gardens to make membership more desirable. Non-members could be maintained on the website but not published in ROOTS. Nancy suggested that listed sellers need to be HIPS members. The consensus appears to be that HIPS is a desirable source for Commercial gardens as there is a large target market for their rhizomes among members. Cathy pointed out that ROOTS is also shared with gardens such as Presby, and passed out at conventions. Board members will share their thoughts on this subject with Dave and he will bring a proposal to the Board.

VIII. New Business

A. ID Chair Charlie Carver presented concerns over preserving the integrity of the early pre-modern (mostly pre-1949) registrations. He proposed that a separate index for these iris be created that organizes them as they were registered rather than reassigning them to classes of iris organized with different criteria as is the current trend on the AIS wiki. Nancy McDonald suggested that any changes proposed by HIPS should be accompanied with the labor to make those changes happen. Cathy asked Charlie to develop an outline of his proposal and send it to the Board.

Charlie noted that Judy Schneider and Nancy McDonald have offered to host National Collections of MTB, Nancy, the historic varieties and Judy, a core class collection that includes both historic and modern introductions.

Charlie suggested that Doug, as Preservation Chair, might want to get Don and Ginny Spoon's garden on our radar for a rescue of MTB and MDB; Ginny's MDB collection is the largest in North America and probably in the world. Ginny told Charlie she has lost about a hundred MTB the last couple of years so likely some very rare cultivars.

B. The 2017 AIS Convention will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, May 22-27, 2017. HIPS will present a program after the annual meeting on Wednesday, May 24th at 1:00 pm,

and has been requested to participate in the Saturday symposium with a presentation on Agnes Whiting, the first RVP of Region 18 and the most well-known Iowa hybridizer.

C. HIPS job descriptions are being prepared. The Publications Chair, Slides Chair, and Secretary are completed and the Regional Director job description is in progress. We will continue to work on these in 2017.

IX. Other: No comments

X. Adjournment at 9:05 CST/10:05 EST